

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
WALTER REED BRAC INTEGRATION COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY – September 18, 2012**

- Ilaya Hopkins called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- Updates from the Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator:
 - Phil noted that every item discussed at the BIC meetings has loads of background material on the web site, listed under today's meeting on the "Get Involved" Page:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/brac/getinvolved.asp>
 - Phil said that at every BIC meeting he reminds everyone that the "Get Involved" Page's chronological report of BIC meetings includes the following resource materials:
 - The "Tiers and Phases" of BRAC Projects based on funding is also posted on the web site. The Tiers and Phases were developed by MDOT and MCDOT with input from the BIC in October 2009, and the summary text has been revised through Sept. 19, 2011.
 1. **Matrix developed by MDOT-MCDOT, October 2009:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bracprojects-tiers-100609.pdf>
 2. **Summary of Tiers & Phases, updated Sept. 19, 2011:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tiersphases-summary-revised-091911.pdf>
 - **Printable Timeline: Anticipated Construction-Related Traffic Disruptions in Bethesda (as of 2-21-12):**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/disruptionstimeline-041111.pdf>
 - **Summary of BRAC Transportation Projects and Commuting Options**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp
 - **7-26-11 State Highway Administration update on the Intersections Improvement project, with the potential availability of OEA funding**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-sha_intersectionsschedule-oea_fundingupdate-072611.pdf

- **The BRAC Mobility Projects Matrix.** It has been updated through November 2, 2011 and reflects the multi-modal approach the County, State and other stakeholders are taking to address the transportation impacts of BRAC in Bethesda – transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, intersection upgrades, transportation demand management, etc.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-110211.pdf
 - **Phil reminded the Committee to get traffic and BRAC news and information first by following Montgomery County BRAC on Twitter @BracMoCoMD .**
 - **Status of the application process for Federal funding for the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Project at the Medical Center Metro Station and the “outer phases” of the four intersections improvement projects.** Phil reported that OEA announced its approval on August 7 of MCDOT’s application for \$40 million for the Crossing Project, and on September 17 OEA approved SHA’s \$7.3 million application for the Old Georgetown Road/West Cedar Lane intersection project. Phil said he was hopeful that SHA would approve funding for the other three intersection projects by the end of the year.
 - **Status of the OEA grant for the Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator.** Phil reported that OEA has approved extended funding for the grant that has been underwriting his position since 2007. He said that grant would expire at the end of March 2013 and would not be extended any further. He said he will work with County officials to find a way to continue working on BRAC issues after the grant expires.
- **State Highway Administration Updates.** Kevin Nowak and Christopher Bishop provided updates on SHA’s BRAC intersections improvements projects.
 - **SHA PowerPoint presentation will be added to the BRAC web site’s Get Involved Page as soon as it is made available.**
 - **SHA has an updated web site about projects in Montgomery County – including the BRAC-related intersections improvements -- sorted by “Pre-Construction” and “Construction.”**
 - <http://apps.roads.maryland.gov/WebProjectLifeCycle/countyProjects.aspx?county=15>
 - **Rockville Pike intersections:** SHA anticipates completion of advanced utilities relocation at the Cedar Lane intersection by spring 2013, at which time construction of the funded early phases of the project can commence. .

- **Connecticut Avenue / Jones Bridge Road:** SHA anticipates completion of the southbound lane on Connecticut Avenue from I-495 to Jones Bridge Road to be completed by spring, 2013, weather permitting. The addition of a northbound lane from Manor Drive to the Beltway by narrowing the median will follow completion of the southbound lane. There was discussion of widening the pedestrian sidewalk along northbound Connecticut Avenue between Jones Bridge Road and Manor Drive.
- **Jones Bridge Road / Rockville Pike:** SHA is working with MCDOT and FHWA to coordinate this project with the Metro Crossing Project.
- **Old Georgetown Road / West Cedar Lane:** This project has now been approved for OEA funding, which will be constructed in a single phase.
- **Other projects in the area** are described in the SHA PowerPoint.
- **MCDOT Presentation on the MD 355 (Rockville Pike) Crossing Project at the Medical Center Metro Station.** Mark Aebig of MCDOT gave a very detailed presentation on the design and schedule of this project, for which \$68.174 million has been obligated through a \$40 million OEA grant and \$28,174 million Defense Access Road (DAR) funding. He also discussed the challenges of coordinating the project with many transportation stakeholders, including MCDOT, SHA, FHWA, Navy, DoD, NIH, WMATA, Park & Planning, NCPC, and others.
 - **MCDOT PowerPoint:**
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot_crossingproject-bic-091812.pdf (17 pp)
- **Naval Support Activity-Bethesda Updates:**
 - **Captain Kass gave a presentation relating on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on two major projects: “Medical Facilities Development and University Expansion,” which was formally released on Friday, Sept. 14.**
 - <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/nsab-eis-bic-091812.pdf> (15 pp)
 - **Capt. Kass noted that today’s presentation does not constitute an official “scoping meeting,” but rather is a courtesy to the community,** to provide a preview of the EIS and ask questions prior to the official Public Hearings on October 4 and 11, at which time comments will be accepted but will not be discussed . October 29 is the deadline to submit comments on the EIS. The Park & Planning Commission will review the EIS on October 18.

- **Current planned construction:** As previously discussed, the project will entail the demolition of five small interior buildings that will be replaced by a single medical building, called “Building C.” and the construction of an additional teaching building at USUHS. . .
- **Parking, now, soon, and long-term:** Both projects will include new garages: an underground garage beneath the front lawn with 500 spaces for patients and visitors, and a 400-space garage for staff and personnel. Alternative locations for the garages under consideration. Parking will still comply with 3:1 requirements established by NCPC.
- **Capt. Kass discussed the EIS “post-BRAC” traffic study.** Overall, BRAC traffic is similar to pre-BRAC traffic and below estimates in the BRAC EIS. AM and PM peak conditions are still LOS F at Rockville Pike. Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike/Connecticut Avenue, the two most congested intersections. He noted that NSAB efforts have or will improve on-campus traffic flow.
- **Navy Master Plan update.** Bill Sadlon noted that the Master Plan is conceptual and no proposed construction is funded or even definite. It does not require the level of scrutiny of an EIS and will be considered contemporaneously with the current EIS. It was observed by the Committee that because the Master Plan itself will not have an EIS, it will be difficult for local planning authorities to assess it.
 - **Gates Construction Update:** Jeff Miller reported that construction to expand capacity at four of the five Navy gates is complete. He is hopeful that the fifth gate will be done by November, in time for the opening of the new Navy Exchange.
- **The Committee decided to hold its next quarterly meeting on December 18, as scheduled, and henceforth to start meetings at 7:00 p.m. rather than 7:30.**
- **The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 7:00 p.m. (NOTE the new starting time), at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

Committee members in attendance, September 18, 2012:

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator

Christopher Bishop, State Highway Administration

Margaret Rifkin for Larry Cole, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

Neil Greene, Maplewood Citizens Association

Ken Hartman, Director, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

Ilaya Hopkins, Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board, East Bethesda Citizens Association, and Chair, Walter Reed BRAC Integration Committee
Ginanne Italiano, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
Bruce Johnston, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
Ed Krauze, Bethesda Parkview Citizens Association
Karen Kuker-Kihl, The Promenade
Richard Levine, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont
Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Association
Susan Petersen for Phil Neuberger, National Institutes of Health
Patrick O'Neil, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley
Leslie Weber, Suburban Hospital

Ex-officio:

Ken Reichard (Senator Ben Cardin)
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)
Capt. Fritz Kass, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda
Jeff Miller, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda
Joseph Macri, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda

Other Attendees

Jessica Ablamsky, Gazette
Mark Aebig, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
Girum Awoke, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
Oya Bain, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Dawn Chaikin, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Erin Donaghue, Bethesda Patch
Carl Gentilcore, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Richard Hoyer
Greg Humes, Chevy Chase Valley
Aaron Kraut, Bethesda Now.com
Jan Marmor, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment
Kevin Nowak, State Highway Administration
Robert Obrist, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Tom Pogue, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
William Sadlon, NAVFAC Washington
Paul Seder, Whitley Park